

# SBCCOE Meeting- February 2025

## Minutes

February 12, 2025

Via WebEx

### I. SBCCOE REGULAR SESSION

#### A. Call to Order

Chair Mascareñaz called the **February 12, 2025** regular meeting of the State Board for Community Colleges and Occupational Education to order at **8:35am MST**.

#### B. Roll Call

*Mary Reeves, State Board Coordinator, called the roll. With the attendance noted below, a quorum was reached, and the meeting proceeded.*

##### **Attendance**

##### **Present:**

Members: Saige Chapin, Ross Dueber, Tatiana Hernandez, Catlyn Keenan, Landon Mascareñaz, Karen McNeil-Miller, Yolanda Ortega, Brad Rupert, Angelika Schroeder, Cathy Shull, Steven Trujillo

##### **Absent:**

Members: Terrance McWilliams

### II. SBCCOE EXECUTIVE SESSION

*The Board may convene in Executive Session pursuant to Colorado Revised Statute 24-6-402(3)(a)(II), 24-6-402(3)(b)(I), 24-6-402(3)(a)(IV) to confer with the Board's attorney for the purpose of receiving legal advice, to discuss personnel matters, and to discuss specialized details of security arrangements.*

##### **Motion:**

Chair Mascareñaz requested for a motion to enter the Executive Session.

Motion moved by Brad Rupert and motion seconded by Tatiana Hernandez. The motion passed.

##### **Motion:**

Chair Mascareñaz requested a motion to exit the Executive Session.

Motion moved by Angelika Schroeder and motion seconded by Cathy Shull. The motion passed and the Board exited Executive Session at 10:23am MST and proceeded with the Work Session.

### III. REGULAR SESSION

#### A. Call Back to Order

Chair Mascareñaz called the State Board for Community Colleges and Occupational Education back to order at **1:18pm MST**.

#### B. Pledge of Allegiance

Member Ross Dueber led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### C. CCCS Land Acknowledgement

Member Yolanda Ortega read the Land Acknowledgement for the Colorado Community College System.

*The Colorado Community College System acknowledges, with respect, the land we are presenting from today is the traditional and ancestral homelands of the Apache, Arapaho, Cheyenne, Pueblo, Shoshone, Kiowa, and Ute Nations, tribes, and peoples. This land was also a site of trade gathering and healing for numerous other Native tribes. We recognize the Indigenous peoples as original stewards of this land and all the relatives within it. As these words of acknowledgment are spoke and heard, the ties Nations have to their traditional lands are renewed and reaffirmed.*

#### D. Approve Minutes of December 11, 2024

##### **Motion:**

Chair Mascareñaz requested a motion to approve the Minutes of the December 11, 2024 regular meeting.

Motion moved by Ross Dueber and motion seconded by Karen McNeil-Miller.  
The motion passed.

#### E. Approve Agenda for February 12, 2025

##### **Motion:**

Chair Mascareñaz requested a motion to approve the Agenda for the February 12, 2025 regular meeting.

Motion moved by Cathy Shull and motion seconded by Steven Trujillo. The motion passed.

### IV. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS APPROVAL

##### **Motion:**

Chair Mascareñaz requested a motion to approve the Consent Agenda containing the two items noted below.

1. Trinidad State College Advisory Council Nominee: Ryan Elarton for New Appointment to a Full Term from March 1, 2025 through February 28, 2029.
2. Trinidad State College Advisory Council Nominee: Jim Littlefield New Appointment to a Full Term from March 1, 2025 through February 28, 2029.

Motion moved by Ross Dueber and motion seconded by Karen McNeil-Miller. The motion passed.

## V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair Mascareñaz asked the State Board Coordinator if anyone had signed up to address the Board. Hearing that no one had signed up, the Chair continued the meeting.

## VI. REPORTS

### A. Chancellor's Report, Joe Garcia

- **Noted the official appointment and senate confirmations of two Board members.**
  - Steven Trujillo was reappointed to a second term. Steven is the Executive Director of the Housing Authority in Pueblo. He is a graduate of Pueblo Community College and CSU-Pueblo.
  - Dr. Angelika Schroeder was appointed to her first term. Dr. Schroeder represents the 2nd congressional district and is replacing Senator Heath. She served two full terms as an elected member of the State Board of Education. She is a former CPA and college professor of accounting and holds a doctorate in accounting.
- **Spoke about the successful CCCS Day at the Capitol on January 29, 2025.**
  - Thanked Fiona Lytle and her team for their work to put it all together. More legislators attended this year than previous years.
  - Thanked Chair Mascareñaz for the presentation on the new CCCS "Transforming Futures" Strategic Plan.
- **Reported on enrollment.**
  - Overall, back to pre-pandemic levels.
  - Spring student headcount up over 4%.
  - Spring student FTE up just under 4%.
  - Concurrent Enrollment students are up 7.8%.
- **Reported on the Federal Executive Orders.**
  - Rapid changes and disruptions. We are monitoring and updating presidents on changes.
  - No programmatic impacts or funding freezes so far
  - At this point, no impact on Title IV funding
  - Uncertainty around HSI funding, but as of now no changes in Title V grants for HSI institutions.
  - Procedural adjustments for Title IX compliance and ICE protocols.
- **Reiterated the commitment to serving ALL students and communities**
  - Reality of community colleges – we serve diverse students and diverse communities.
  - Providing supportive services for veterans, parents, part-time workers, rural students, and all underrepresented communities.

B. State Faculty Advisory Council (SFAC), Dr. Catlyn Keenan, SFAC Representative

- **Commented on changes at the Federal level.**
  - SFAC is deeply concerned about the changes and how not only the changes themselves impact the work, but how the general sense of chaos is creating an uncertain and unstable environment on campuses and in classrooms. Dr. Keenan thanked Angie Gramse, General Counsel, and her team, for their guidance on how to handle after hours appearances by Immigration and Customs Enforcement, as well as how to support high school concurrent enrollment students in classes. SFAC is working with college leadership to develop comprehensive protocols.
- **Reported on a discussion about whether conflicting reports on whether Colorado Online is delivering more revenue to the colleges as promised. SFAC hopes to see a report in the coming month.**
  - Pikes Peak State College and Front Range Community College have half of the pooled classes.
  - Remaining 50% split between the other eleven colleges.
  - CNCC offering only pooled sections, no online home sections.
  - Morgan Community College seeing decreased enrollment in face-to-face classes as enrollments in pooled sections rise.
- **Reported on progress on the Academic Freedom policy.**
  - Working group reviewing feedback from faculty and college presidents.
  - Provided the working definition of academic freedom.
    - *Academic freedom is the principle that scholars, researchers, and educators should be free to pursue, teach, and communicate ideas without fear of censorship, coercion, undue interference, or retribution from government, institutional or system authorities, or external groups. This freedom is crucial for advancing knowledge, challenging established theories, and engaging in rigorous inquiry, even when it involves controversial topics. Academic freedom is thus foundational to the educational purpose and mission of colleges within the Colorado Community College System.*
- **Stated that SFAC remains committed to improving morale and retention.**
  - Using data from the FY25 Belonging Survey to inform recommendations.
  - Encouraging college presidents to analyze and share data, convene working groups, and identify possible supports.

C. State Student Advisory Council (SSAC), Saige Chapin, Chair

- **Reported that an action plan was passed in the last SSAC meeting.**
  - Reviewing meeting minutes from the past two years.
  - Identifying and addressing ongoing issues.
  - Updating action plans with relevant issues.
- **Stated that the Colorado Department of Higher Education (CDHE) Student Day at the Capitol is being held on Thursday, February 13, 2025.**
  - Encouraged SSAC members or a college representatives to attend.
  - Nine out of eleven SSAC reps or their Student Government Association (SGA) President are attending.
  - Additional student government members from each college are attending.

D. Chair's Report, Dr. Landon Mascareñaz

- **Gratitude and Acknowledgements:**
  - Thanks to everyone for their hard work and quick pivot to adjust this meeting to be virtual due to the weather concerns.
  - Thanks to all who worked on the successful CCCS Day at the Capitol.
- **North Star of Economic Mobility and Opportunity:**
  - Emphasis on economic mobility and opportunity for students.
  - Importance of grounding forces during times of change.
  - Building economic engines in every community.
- **Visionary and Actionable Strategic Plan:**
  - Moving from co-creation to co-production.
  - Engaging stakeholders to build the next phase.
  - Clear and actionable opportunities to meet the moment.
- **Building a Future-Ready CCCS System:**
  - Embracing emerging technologies and trends.
  - Leveraging the system's nimbleness and adaptability.
  - Confidence in meeting the moment with staff and talent.
- **Constructive and Energized Board:**
  - Congratulated Steven Trujillo on his re-appointment to the Board. It is great to have Steven's voice from Pueblo.
  - Welcomed Dr. Schroeder to the Board.
    - Admired for a long time her service on the State Board of Education.
    - Looking forward to Dr. Schoeder's wisdom and insights.

E. Presidents' Emerging News

- **Dr. Mike White, President, Northeastern Junior College (NJC)**
  - Presented to the Colorado State University (CSU) Board of Governors last Friday with James Pritchett, CSU Vice President for Engagement and Extension, on Behavioral Health Education partnership.

- Students can start with two years in Sterling and then stay on campus to finish and earn up to a master's degree in addiction counseling. The degree will be awarded by CSU. This partnership fills high-need jobs and skills in Northeast Colorado.

- **Dr. Rhonda Epper, President, Trinidad State College (TSC)**

- TSC's 100th Anniversary Celebrations
  - Founders Day at Trinidad campus on April 11, 2025 to celebrate the creation of Trinidad Junior College in 1925 with legislation sponsored by Samuel Freudenthal and signed by Governor Clarence Morley. There will be a grand opening and dedication of the newly renovated Samuel Freudenthal Library.
  - Jubilee at the Valley campus in Alamosa on June 27, 2025.
  - Centennial Legacy Extravaganza on August 8-10, 2025 at the Trinidad campus.
- Grant from the US Department of Labor:
  - \$5.75 million through the Strengthening Community College Training Grants.
  - Partnership with Pueblo Community College (PCC).
  - Integrating advanced manufacturing into program offerings. Launching AAS in robotics and automation, and AAS in computer-aided drafting.
  - Working with regional employers and PCC.

- **Dr. Marielena DeSanctis, President, Community College of Denver (CCD)**

- CCD is hosting a Transfer Summit with Metropolitan State University (MSU) on Tuesday, February 25, 2025 on the Auraria campus.
- Key attendees:
  - Josh Wyner, Executive Director of the Community College Excellence Program, Aspen Institute
  - Jason Dodge, architect of Direct Connect UCF Valencia College transfer program and Advanced Program with Northern Virginia Community College System and George Mason University

- **Dr. Mordecai Brownlee, President, Community College of Aurora (CCA)**

- Success in fundraising campaign for the new Center for Applied Science and Technology:
  - Received another \$500,000 donation towards the \$18 million goal. There is less than \$900,000 remaining to close the gap.

## VII. DISCUSSION and ACTION ITEMS

### A. Approval of the Amendment to the SBCCOE Bylaws

#### **Motion:**

Motion moved by Karen McNeil-Miller and motion seconded by Steven Trujillo. The motion passed.

### B. Approval of Board Policy 2-30, State Faculty Advisory Council

#### **Motion:**

Motion moved by Brad Rupert and motion seconded by Ross Dueber. The motion passed.

### C. Approval of Board Policy 19-10, Bullying, Violence, and Weapons

#### **Motion:**

Motion moved by Brad Rupert and motion seconded by Steven Trujillo. The motion passed.

### D. Approval of the Red Rocks Community College (RRCC) Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) in Sonography

#### **Motion:**

Motion moved by Brad Rupert and motion seconded by Yolanda Ortega. The motion passed.

### E. Approval of the Front Range Community College (FRCC) and Pike Peak State College (PPSC) Spending Authority Request for Ad Astra Subscriptions

#### **Motion:**

Motion moved by Ross Dueber and motion seconded by Steven Trujillo. The motion passed.

### F. Approval of the Community College of Aurora (CCA) Amendment to Lease for Centennial Campus

#### **Motion:**

Motion moved by Karen McNeil-Miller and motion seconded by Brad Rupert. The motion passed.

## VIII. ADJOURNMENT

#### **Motion:**

Chair Mascareñaz requested a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion moved by Yolanda Ortega and motion seconded by Karen McNeil-Miller. The motion passed and the State Board for Community Colleges and Occupational Education regular meeting of **February 12, 2025** was adjourned at **1:58pm MST**.